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POLAND: Martial Law Suspension

Premier Jaruzelski publicly pledged yesterday to remove the "fundamental rigors" of martial law by the end of the year, but showed great caution about moving too quickly to relax all restrictions.

Addressing a nationwide television audience, Jaruzelski revealed few details about regime plans to "suspend" martial law. He said that the Military Council would remain to "oversee" the transition to the full lifting of martial law and that a reduced number of military commissars would continue to occupy major positions. The Premier alluded to the possibility of "socially justified" amnesties but made no commitment.

Jaruzelski called for national accord but ignored the recent letter from former union leader Walesa in which he offered to cooperate with the government in creating social agreement. Walesa, in effect, laid down three conditions for such cooperation: a general amnesty, the reinstatement of workers fired for union activity, and a return to the principle of union "pluralism."

A government press spokesman on Saturday condemned President Reagan's recent statement on Poland as more US interference in Polish affairs. The same day a Deputy Foreign Minister warned [redacted] that Warsaw would cut back bilateral ties if the US continued its interference.

On Friday, *Pravda* indicated martial law had achieved a "normalization that irritates Poland's enemies." Yesterday, TASS repeated the Polish news agency's criticism of US "pressure" and reported without comment Jaruzelski's announcement that the "basic rules" of martial law would be suspended.

Comment: Jaruzelski's note of caution about the eventual lifting of martial law restrictions probably reflects his own interest in maintaining control and also may have been intended to reassure domestic critics and the Soviets that he is concerned over internal security and unwilling to give in to Western pressure. The statement in *Pravda* may reflect confidence in Moscow that conditions in Poland justify relaxing some aspects of military rule. The reference by TASS to US pressure, however, is probably designed in part to remind the authorities that the need for vigilance remains high.

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